

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7451
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1171

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: NEW HERERO CHIEF SELECTED

1. SUMMARY: THE NEWLY ELECTED HERERO CHIEF, K. RIRUAKO, HAS PUBLICLY REJECTED THE TURNHALLE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS DECISION-MAKING AND THE DTA'S "OVER-EMPHASIS" ON ETHNICITY. RIRUAKO'S SELECTION RAISES SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE DTA. END SUMMARY.

2. THE HERERO'S CHIEF COUNCIL HAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED K. RIRUAKO (42) TO SUCCEED THE LATE CLEMENS KAPUUO AS CHIEF OF THE HEREROS. RIRUAKO ARRIVED IN WINDHOEK ON JUNE 11
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FROM NEW YORK WHERE HE HAS BEEN THE NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATON (NUDO) "REPRESENTATIVE." JOHANNES KARUAIHE REMAINS ACTING LEADER OF NUDO, BUT, ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN WINDHOEK, RIRUAKO IS EXPECTED TO TAKE OVER THIS POSITION AS WELL.

3. WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT RIRUAKO, BUT ACCORDING TO A

JOURNALIST IN WINDHOEK, HE ATTENDED THE WINNEBA INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGY IN GHANA IN 1965, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DETAINED BY THE SAG POLICE IN NAMIBIA FOR A YEAR AND WENT TO THE US IN 1968 TO ATTEND BROOKLYN COLLEGE AND THEN BECAME THE NUDO "REPRESENTATIVE" IN NEW YORK. (MORE BIO INFO WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.) IN HIS VIEWS, RIRUAKO IS APPARENTLY MUCH CLOSER TO THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL FRONT THAN WAS CHIEF KAPUWO. ON HIS RETURN TO WINDHOEK, FOR EXAMPLE, RIRUAKO WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE DTA SHOULD BE MERGED INTO ONE POLITICAL PARTY AND THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS SHOULD BE ABOLISHED BOTH WITHIN THE PARTY AND IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHEN HE THOUGH THIS SHOULD OR WOULD TAKE PLACE. RIRUAKO HAS ALSO BEEN QUOTED AS CRITICIZING THE DTA'S "OVER-EMPHASIS" ON ETHNICITY.

4. SOME TURNHALLE LEADERS MAY THUS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO AGREE TO THE ELECTION OF RIRUAKO AS THE NEW LEADER OF THE DTA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE HEREROS REPORTEDLY FEEL THEY HAVE A PROPRIETARY RIGHT TO LEADERSHIP OF THE DTA. MOREOVER, THE DTA HAS NO CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO RIRUAKO, AS ONLY HE AND THE KAVANGO TURNHALLE LEADER CAN MAKE A CONVINCING CLAIM TO HAVE MAJORITY SUPPORT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ETHNIC COMMUNITIES. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT IF THE DTA DENIES RIRUAKO LEADERSHIP OF THE ALLIANCE, HE MIGHT CONSIDER TAKING NUDO INTO
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THE NNF.

5. MEANWHILE, THE NNF HAS GAINED A CONSIDERABLE BOOST WITH THE NEWS THAT ANDREAS SHIPANGA IS REPORTEDLY PREPARED TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE FRONT, HEADING A SPLINTER SWAPO GROUP. THIS NEWS WAS "CONFIRMED" TO THE PRESS ON JUNE 9 IN WINDHOEK BY THE NNF'S PUBLICITY SECRETARY, VEKUII RURORO, WHO SAID THE NEWS HAD BEEN RELAYED TO HIM BY THE NNF'S EUROPEAN REPS. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, STOCKHOLM'S 2282 WHICH REPORTS SHIPANGA HAS NOT, IN FACT, MADE UP HIS MIND. RUKORO AND JOHN KIRKPATRICK, THE NNF'S NATIONAL TREASURER, WILL REPORTEDLY TRAVEL TO EUROPE THIS WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SHIPANGA AND THE EXILED DISSIDENTS.

6. THE DTA HAS ALREADY SENT A DELEGATION TO EUROPE TO TALK TO SHIPANGA. THE DELEGATION WAS LED BY FANUEL KOZINGUIZI, THE DTA'S ROVING AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SHIPANGA'S BROTHER. EDMONDSON

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